

ST. JOSEPH PARKS, RECREATION, AND CIVIC FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Annual Report

2021



WE CREATE COMMUNITY



Children slide down the Patee Park playground while visiting for Parks Passport.

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A child spins at Rest Square Park.



An ornament left by a community member on a sapling along Northwest Parkway.



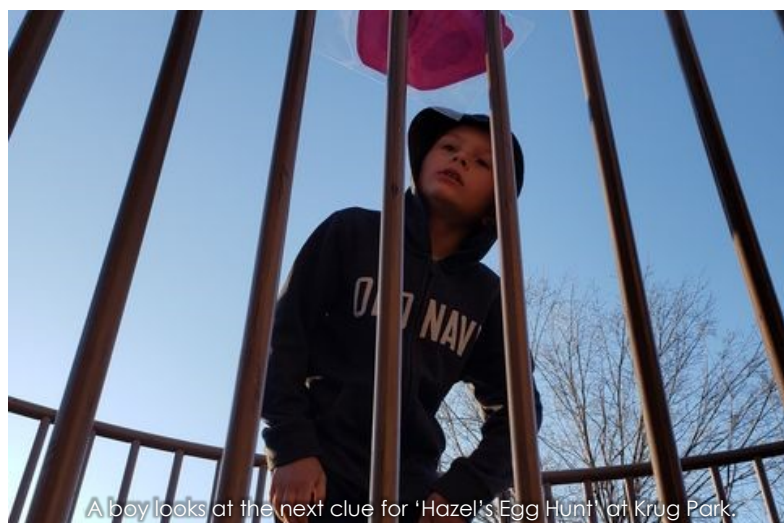
A boy practices hitting the tennis ball during a session of youth tennis camp.



Volunteers from Friends of Krug Park participate in a service day by painting the railing around Krug Lagoon.



A daffodil grows along the stairs above Krug Park's Children's Circus.



A boy looks at the next clue for 'Hazel's Egg Hunt' at Krug Park.

WHO WE ARE



A child climbs down the tunnel at the new Maple Leaf Playground.

The department is a member of the National Parks & Recreation Association, Missouri Parks & Recreation Association, United States Tennis Association, USA Softball, United States Figure Skating, and the Professional Golf Association.



A member of the Rotary Club #32 helps scrape paint and repaint the gazebo at the Urban Outdoor Nature Walk.

MISSION

Provide a variety of quality of life programs and services to promote a healthy community through fitness, recreation, and entertainment.



Children get ready to practice their stance at a session of the youth tennis camp at Noyes Tennis Complex.

Board Leadership

Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities

Chris Clark, Chair

Annette Lanham

Scott Mooney

Pam Nelson

Dr. Scott Nelson

Mary Supple-Bish

Patti Luedtke

Michael Heim

Eric Montegna



A little girl runs through the water jets at the grand opening of the Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park.

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

In many aspects, 2021 was a year of recovery for the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department. After dealing with the initial impact of a pandemic, followed by the uncertainty and unrest the disease and everything related to it created, there was some effort to return to at least some level of normalcy this past year. Our department was no different than most other organizations across the country. We began to try and find ways to recover and return to regular business operations. In many cases, this meant we simply had to provide some additional safeguards, remain diligent in our efforts to keep our buildings and amenities clean and safe, and try to maintain some basic guidelines to help keep people safe and healthy.

Unlike 2020, there were no mandatory temporary layoffs, but the parks department continued to be affected by a deteriorating number of people interested in being involved in the seasonal workforce along with the continued loss of offender labor. The lack of available labor during the growing season had a tremendous impact on the quality of vegetation control we were able to provide. The lack of offender labor provided by the State of Missouri has the biggest impact on this important maintenance activity. By the end of the summer, the State began releasing a limited number of offenders on work release, but even by the end of the year, we still hadn't returned to the pre-Covid numbers.

Most of the parks department businesses returned to normal operations with a few modifications. The biggest impact remained at the Civic Arena and Missouri Theater with lingering fear from many promoters and organizations to host large events in indoor spaces. The few special events that were attempted noticed less attendance and heavy public scrutiny which discouraged others. Some traditional events were scheduled and later canceled due to a lack of advance ticket sales. Other facilities like the REC Center, Remington

Nature Center, Fairview Golf Course, and Bode Ice Arena with rental space saw a moderate recovery, but none returned to the numbers they saw before Covid. The Civic Arena continued to provide valuable community services, offering space as a warehouse and distribution site for personal protective equipment for local emergency responders and health care providers.

Along with encouraging signs of returning to normal services and business operations, there were other positive actions in 2021. One that stood out and will have a long-lasting impact on the City of St. Joseph is its citizens and visitors. In May, the St. Joseph City Council decided to pursue a ten-year, half-cent sales tax to benefit the parks department. After a very condensed and intense project preparation and proposal process involving parks staff and an eight-person citizen committee, the initiative went before St. Joseph voters.

On August 3, those voters sent a strong message that they wanted significant money spent to repair, restore, and reinvigorate the parks and related facilities throughout the city. The result of this initiative will take a few years to realize, but it would be hard to find a more impactful and historic moment specific to the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department other than the design and creation of the system in the early 20th century.

After the election, parks staff spent the remaining months of 2021 preparing a prioritized project schedule, working on scopes of work with other city staff, and finalizing financial processes to move forward in 2022.

Aside from future park tax projects, the department continues to process other improvements funded by the CIP tax, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds, and riverfront funding mechanisms. New and ongoing projects in 2021 involved the



The November 'Turkey Hunt' is hidden within the new playground at Maple Leaf Park.

continued development of River Bluff Trails Park, renovations at the Horace Mann Building and John Lucas Park, construction of the Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park, a new roof at the nature center, a new roof over part of the Missouri Theater complex, exterior renovations at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion and a new playground at Maple Leaf Park.

As in past years, many of these projects help the department achieve milestones in the five primary goals established by the St. Joseph community for the parks department in the 2018 – 2023 strategic plan. The ten-year park tax will ensure the parks department and St. Joseph community will continue to improve its parks and park facilities for many years.

- Maintain and Improve Existing Infrastructure
- Increase Recreational Opportunities

- Improve Park Security
- Manage Use of Technology and Equipment to Increase
- Identify Additional Funding Opportunities and Options

Throughout this year of recovery, the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department has continued efforts to operate safely and effectively while providing much-needed programs, activities, and events for our community.

Chuck Kempf, CPRP
Director

STRATEGIC PLAN

Maintain and Improve Existing Infrastructure

The initiation of the design process for renovations at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion and Missouri Theater will ultimately result in much-needed improvements at these facilities. The design of a new playground at Maple Leaf Park will also result in improved park infrastructure that will last for many years.

Increase Recreational Opportunities

A more modern, versatile, and safer playground at Maple Leaf Park will provide a greater variety of play for children in the community. The Bluff Trails system will increase outdoor recreational opportunities immensely. This system will serve hikers, nature lovers, casual walkers and bicyclists, and mountain bike enthusiasts. It will draw people from a significant geographic region, dramatically impacting tourism in St. Joseph. The first splash park in St. Joseph will provide unique play options for both children and adults while also increasing visitors to our city.

Improve Park Security

Staff continues to look for opportunities to increase security and safety awareness throughout the park system, but no significant improvements were realized this year.

Manage Use of Technology and Equipment to Increase Efficiency

We continue to try and transition the department into a better situation in both traditional and non-traditional media platforms. In 2020, progress on the administration of the Cartegraph asset management system was tremendous and should make it available for full use in early 2021.

Many of the projects mentioned throughout this annual report help the department achieve milestones in the five primary goals established by the St. Joseph community for the parks department in the 2018 – 2023 strategic plan.

Identify Additional Funding Opportunities and Options

Staff is always looking for opportunities for grants, donations, and new fee-based programs and activities. Besides the transient guest tax funding for initiation of the Bluff Trails project, the department received its annual donation from Leaverton Trust for park maintenance in the amount of \$78,142 and a donation from the Colonel William Morgan Trust in the amount of \$75,000, the latter being the third year of a multi-year donation. Staff also worked in cooperation with the Friends of the Parks, a 501 (c) (3) organization, to apply for a grant from the Norma J. and William J. Kenney Charitable Trust in the amount of \$20,000 for the purchase of “dry” playground equipment for the new splash park at Hyde Park. The board of the trust approved that grant in the spring of 2020.



A child plays at Hochman Park while participating in Parks Passport.

COVID-19

The impact of the virus from the view of the administration.

The coronavirus pandemic continued to have an impact on the park department. The impact was felt both financially and in the way we operate our programs and facilities. Park operations returned to some level of normalcy, but many still had to make changes to the way programs and activities were provided. The biggest impact was still being felt in operations at the Civic Arena and Missouri Theater due to the fact they are both indoor venues, and promoters, local groups, and the city's own event operations were still not comfortable returning to large indoor events without some level of safety factors in place. Some of those factors, along with remaining public concern about the disease and its effects, have discouraged people from attending the type of events we host at both facilities.

Other than the performing arts groups who use the Missouri Theater, many of the other user groups who utilize our recreational and sports facilities returned to more normal activities, some with modified operational practices. Our department continued to respect those entities' specific rules and regulations as related to the pandemic.



The "Pony Express Monument" in the springtime.



A sign about St. Joseph's Parkway System's history stands in front of City Hall during the Steam to S.T.E.A.M. Festival for Missouri's Bicentennial.

COVID-related issues continued to have an impact on department revenues, primarily in programs related to civic facilities, but some other operations also came in under projected revenue amounts. Expenses were easier to control due to reduced operations and the availability of seasonal and part-time staff. The overall drop in revenue at the end of the calendar year was approximately \$387,000 with a reduction in expenses totaling a little over \$700,000. These numbers need to be kept in perspective and not be compared directly to the fiscal year budget which runs from July 1 to June 30 each year.

As was the case in 2020, business at Fairview Golf Course continued to be good. Although not to pre-Covid levels, banquet room rentals picked back up in 2021.

ADMINISTRATION

The objectives of the Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department are to provide a variety of services, activities, programs, facilities, and infrastructure to enhance the quality of life for its citizens and visitors. The department believes in the same core focus as the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) in the areas of health and wellness, resource conservation, and social equity. Services provided by the parks department are extremely diverse.

The St. Joseph park system, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is comprised of approximately 1,500 acres, 26 miles of parkways, and boulevards and contains 53 parks and related facilities. Much of the park system, including the three largest parks, are connected by the historic parkway system. This beautiful corridor winds down the center of the city and includes Krug Park, Northside Complex, Corby Grove, Noyes Tennis Complex, the Aquatic Park, Mary Park, Bartlett Park, Bartlett Parkway Disc Golf Course, Fairview Golf Course, the REC Center, Phil Welch Stadium, Bode Ice Arena, South Park/Drake Complex, and Hyde Park. The parks department also has multiple facilities along the Missouri River, including Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park, Remington Nature Center, and Robidoux Landing at Downtown Riverfront Park. These properties are connected by the 2.1-mile Riverwalk trail. There is also a significant parks department presence in downtown St. Joseph: the JRP 50+ Activities Center, Coleman Hawkins Park at Felix Street Square, Civic Arena, and Missouri Theater.

The city continues to develop its urban hike & bike trail system. New sections are created each year which have expanded the system that winds throughout the city, much of which is adjacent to the parkway system.

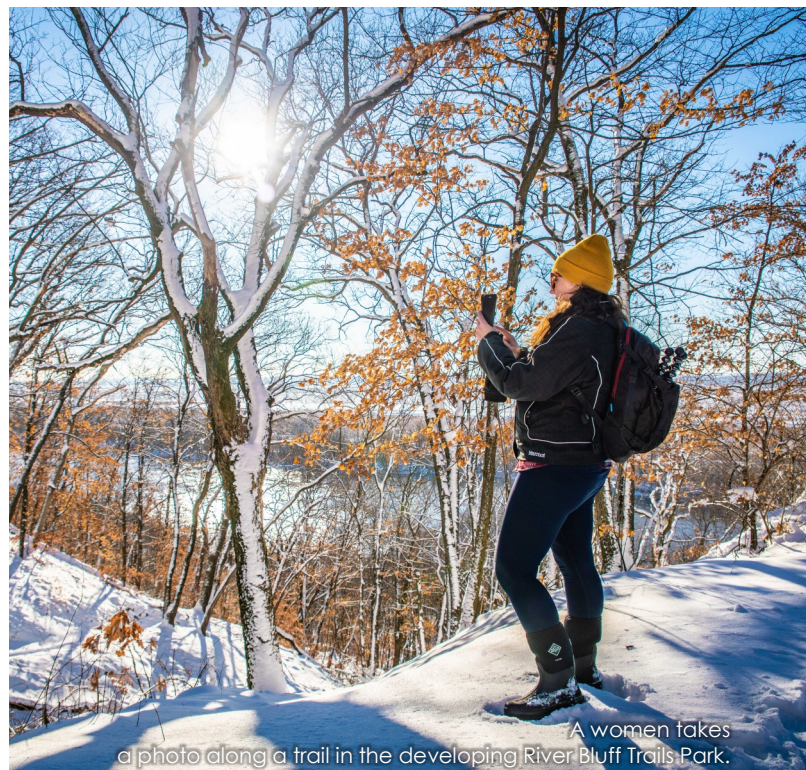
A parks advisory board meets once per month throughout the year. Staff reports activities and projects to the board and relies on board members to provide opinions, ideas, and recommendations to the City

Council. The 2021 board consisted of Chris Clark (Chairperson), Annette Lanham, Pam Nelson, Dr. Scott Nelson, Mary Supple-Bish, Patti Luedtke, Michael Heim, Eric Montagne, and Scott Mooney. Members who completed their terms in 2021 include Valerie Brandt and Darrel Grace.

Daily duties in the administrative office include communications, both traditional and social, customer service activities, budget monitoring, financial management, park reservations, special event coordination, human resource activities, staff training, planning, and project initiation and monitoring. The administrative staff also communicates and supports the satellite operations of the parks department, which are numerous.

The department is a member of the National Parks & Recreation Association, Missouri Parks & Recreation Association, United States Tennis Association, USA Softball, United States Figure Skating, and the Professional Golf Association.

There were no changes in administrative staff in 2021.

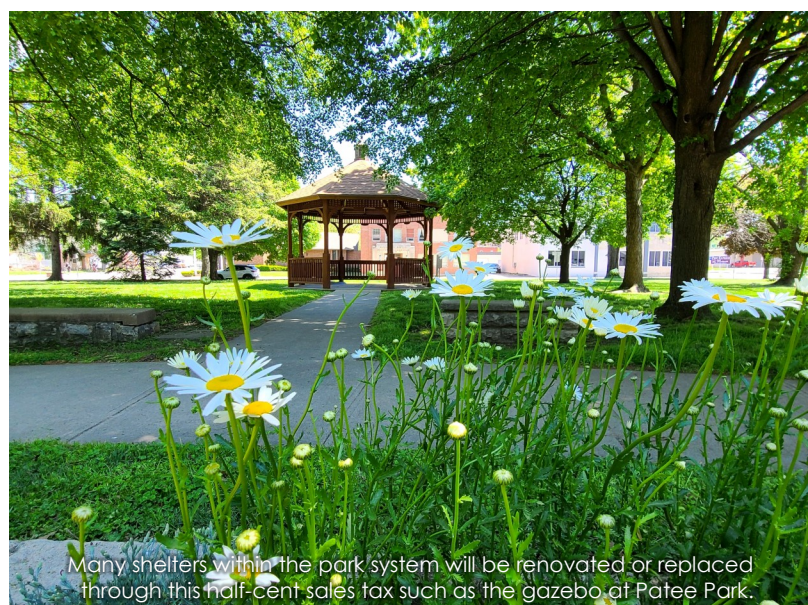


A woman takes a photo along a trail in the developing River Bluff Trails Park.



HALF-CENT SALES TAX

The big news of 2021 was a successful 10-year half-cent sales tax campaign, the funds of which are dedicated to capital improvements specifically for the parks department. In May, the City Council voted to place the half-cent sales tax initiative on the August ballot. Due to the short notice between City Council's interest in the initiative and the election, an extremely intense project selection campaign was initiated by city staff. A citizen committee was named by City Council. The committee consisted of chairperson Chris Clark, Terry Turbak, Bob Dempster, Dennis Rosonke, Ben Burtnett, Peggy Voltz, Scott Mooney, and Brenda O'Meara. Parks department staff along with the city manager's staff prepared and presented a list of projects to the committee totaling approximately \$90 million. The committee's task was to narrow that list down to approximately \$60 million in projects. Over two weeks, the committee was able to process and narrow the list down to a total of 78 primary projects with another 10 supplemental projects totaling an estimated \$61 million. The initiative went before St. Joe voters in August and passed with more than 70% of the votes. The funds don't start accumulating until January 1, 2022, but parks staff finished off 2021 planning and scheduling projects to meet the annual allotted funding amount, which is estimated to be \$5 to \$6 million.



Many shelters within the park system will be renovated or replaced through this half-cent sales tax such as the gazebo at Patee Park.



The Children's Circus at Krug Park is among the projects approved in the half-cent sales tax.

ADMINISTRATION

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Several CIP projects were in various stages of progress this year. Construction of the Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park was completed, and the park was opened in early July. This is the first significant splash park in St. Joseph. The total cost of the project was \$2,092,000. Lawhon Construction was the general contractor. Ellison-Auxier Architects was the lead design professional and project manager with support from Water's Edge and Landworks Studio. Renovations at the Horace Mann building in midtown took place throughout the fall and winter with completion right before Christmas. The budget for that CIP project was given a boost when the city's Planning & Community Development Department identified Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for renovations at John Lucas Park, allowing for that project's CIP funds to be diverted to Horace Mann. A heavily renovated gymnasium including HVAC, a new athletic floor and roof are the focal point of the project, but other improvements were made. Improved plumbing fixtures, building envelope sealing, gym painting, and new lighting both inside the building and on the outdoor campus made a significant impact on the building and grounds.



The improvements on Horace Mann's gymnasium is as evident on the outside as they are on the inside.

The design was completed and physical work began on exterior renovations at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion. Goldberg Group Architects provided the design and engineering while GDS was awarded the construction contract. At the end of December 2021, work was still underway. Restroom renovations at the Missouri Theater hit a roadblock when a significant leak of the roof above the location of the new restrooms was discovered during the early phases of the project. After a separate project was initiated to repair the roof over the entire office section of the Missouri Theater complex, work on the new restrooms resumed. The restroom addition was designed by Ellison-Auxier Architects and the general contractor is Lee Grover Construction. The contract amount is \$261,998 and work is proceeding as the calendar turns to 2022.

The new playground and safety surfacing at Maple Leaf Park was completed. The new equipment replaced the oldest remaining playground equipment in the parks system, estimated to be over fifty years old. The playground and surfacing were purchased from and installed by Playcore Wisconsin. Immediately after the Maple Leaf Playground was completed, the same installation crew applied a rubberized safety surface for the playground at Patee Park.



The new surfacing at the Patee Park playground gives a safer place to land if someone falls.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

Development of a significant primitive trail system on the bluffs along the riverfront in northwest St. Joseph continued. “River Bluff Trails Park” as named by the St. Joseph City Council in 2021 will ultimately culminate as an extensive natural surface trail system. The park of trails, located north of Highland Avenue, east of Waterworks Road, west of I-229 and south of the county line, will provide instant tourism interest from all over the country. When complete, it will include 10 – 12 miles of multi-use trail (hiking & biking), with over 20 downhill mountain bike trail runs consisting of different levels of difficulty. There will also be multiple youth biking areas within the system. This design/build project was awarded to Ideker Construc-

tion of St. Joseph. They are working closely with Nomad Trails, a national leader in mountain bike trail development.

In addition to the ongoing construction of River Bluff Trails Park, there was an extension of the urban hike & bike trail system. Patee Trail – Phase II was completed. That half-mile stretch of paved trail runs from 28th Street to 22nd Street along the old railroad corridor south of Messanic Street. It connects to the urban trail system on the east end, but currently, there is no connection to the west. There are plans to extend that section of trail from 22nd Street in a southwest direction until it connects to Mitchell Avenue.



Nomad Trails Development crew members test-ride a newly carved trail at the River Bluff Trails Park.

AQUATICS



A lifeguard watches over the water at Krug Pool.

Aquatic Park

- 300' Lazy River
- Zero Depth Beach Entry
- Children's Play Structure
- Waterfall
- Sun Deck
- Concessions

Krug Pool

- Swimming Pool
- Climbing Wall
- Diving Board
- Sun Deck
- Concessions

What a difference a year makes! This season we were able to not only open both the St. Joseph Aquatic Park and Krug Pool (unlike 2020), but we also opened the Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park. While some operational changes were made, overall, we saw a significant improvement in attendance at both pools. The Aquatic Park had a total attendance of 11,200 and Krug Pool had 2,322, both improved over the 2019 season.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, daily swim options were divided into two different swim sessions, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM or 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM (Monday through Friday at both the Aquatic Park and Krug Pool, and only the Aquatic Park on Saturday) and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Sundays at the Aquatic Park to allow controlled attendance numbers but still offer adequate swimming opportunities for the community we serve. Krug Pool increased its daily operation from three days per week to five days per week (Monday through Friday) compared to the 2019 season.

We received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from our families regarding the swim sessions. Parents appreciated the facilities being far less crowded and were very pleased with the three-hour sessions.

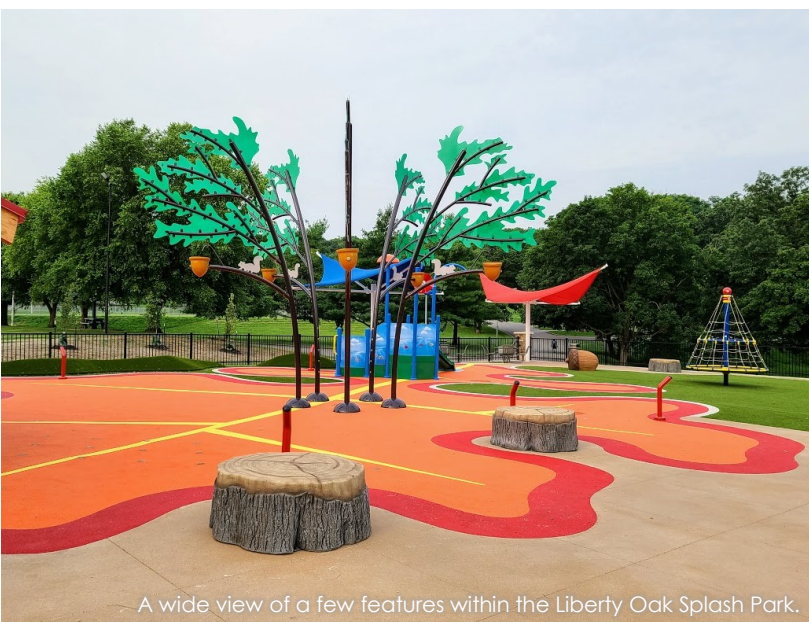




A young girl looks back at the water jets at the grand opening of the splash park.

Staff recruitment continues to be a struggle. However, with the increased lifeguard pay (\$13/hour) and the paid marketing and promotions, we were able to hire just enough staff to make it through the season. Hopefully, we have a good percentage of returning staff as we prepare for the 2022 season.

Programming at the Thomas Eagleton Indoor Pool at Missouri Western State University has seen an incredibly positive increase. Not only are we still offering a water fitness class three days per week year-round, but we also brought back our swim lesson program. Looking forward to the new year, we will double the number of swim classes offered to meet the community's needs.



A wide view of a few features within the Liberty Oak Splash Park.

LIBERTY OAK SPLASH PARK

The Liberty Oak Splash Park at Hyde Park opened with great success. Open seasonally for 7 days a week, daily operational hours were adjusted from 10:00 AM to just before sundown to accommodate the changing nightfall throughout the season. Different from the other two water features in St. Joseph, the splash park's admission is free for all. It has five different water features that include dumping buckets, ground jets, and a youth waterslide. There are also restrooms, picnic tables, and dry playground equipment within the facility. With a goal of accessibility in mind, the picnic area, water features, and dry playground equipment on site are all ADA accessible. The namesake and theme of the splash park can be attributed to the fallen Liberty Oak Tree that once stood across the driveway at Hyde Park. The colors of the building and signage are red, white, and blue. The water surfacing is shaped like an oak leaf, several seating features are shaped like acorns and stumps, and the largest feature is a tree that's "trunk" releases water into buckets in the "leaves" to dump on patrons below.

This new water feature at Hyde Park was approved by voters in August 2018, as a project in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) half-cent sales tax. The grand opening was on Friday, July 16, 2021.



A young boy walks through the water jets at the Liberty Oak Splash Park.

BODE SPORTS COMPLEX & ICE ARENA

Following George Bode Jr.'s death, the St. Joseph banker left his entire estate to the city, establishing the George Bode Jr. Benevolent Trust Fund. When the Bode Ice Arena was built in 1975, it became the first major project to benefit from the fund. Then, in 1999, the Bode Sports Complex was developed around the arena to create a more immersive experience for St. Joseph residents. The entirety of the complex includes an indoor ice arena, six outdoor lighted basketball courts, pickleball courts, and a skateboard park. Active programming at the ice arena includes hockey, multiple figure skating options, open skate, and special parties.

The ice arena is an important and unique facility for a city the size of St. Joseph. In a typical year, over 75,000 people visit the ice arena between August and May.

Despite the continued challenges faced this year, the Bode Sports Complex, especially the ice arena, continues to offer unique programs, activities, and services to the surrounding community. It has maintained strong relationships with the Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association, St. Joseph Figure Skating Club, St. Joseph Curling Club, MWSU, and Inter-Serv.



Buzz Lightyear and Woody get ready to hit the ice on Halloween.

Impact of COVID-19

Bode Ice Arena is also heavily involved in several special events and activities each year. January is National Skating Month but Bode was unable to host the event due to COVID-19. In November, Bode Ice Arena participated in the national Try Hockey for Free Day, to increase participation and awareness specifically to that sport.

COVID-19 had a large impact on indoor activities at Bode Ice Arena from January to May. Public sessions resumed in July of 2021, and although the number of skaters is down from pre-COVID, the community is thrilled to be back on the ice.

The 32nd Annual Heartland Winter Games in January was not held. However, Inter-Serv was able to utilize the Bode Sports Complex for their annual Summer Jam program but had a very limited number of participants and the program only played on one evening per week.



"Shrek in the Frozen Swamp" performance cast

The Griffon Gliders practiced with two teams starting in August, the Griffon Gliders Gold and Griffon Gliders Silver, with skaters ranging from 8 -18 years of age. They plan to resume their competitive season in January 2022.

COVID-19 also impacted the number of participants in the Learn to Ice Skate program. Two classes, the Thursday morning Homeschool Learn to Skate and Beyond Basic, were not held because Bode Ice Arena was not having public sessions to comply with COVID-19 mandates from January to May. However, the St. Joseph Figure Skating Club still held its annual spring ice show titled “Shrek in the Frozen Swamp” with nearly 1,000 people in attendance, up from 600 in the previous year.

The St. Joseph Figure Skating Club (SJFSC) was able to host its annual Pony Express Figure Skating Competition. The club had close to 200 competitors but only had the competition for three days versus the usual four. Bode was unable to host the Best of Midwest Synchro Competition due to USFS COVID restrictions. The club was also able to host three Christmas performances titled “Feeling Frosty.” Over 800 people attended the three performances. With all the changes faced in 2021, the figure skating club has seen a decline in its association.

The Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association began its programming in September which will run through February of the following year. They have teams from those eight and under up to high school students, and they serve almost 120 area youth, both boys and girls. The Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association has increased in participants despite the pandemic.

The Mayor’s Children’s Christmas Party was hosted in December 2021. The event saw a drastic decrease in participants due to the surge in COVID, but the community donations will allow for a successful start to the party in 2022.

Missouri Western State University (MWSU) traditionally offers Learn to Curl and figure skating classes but did not in 2021. The St. Joseph Curling Club offered 6 Learn to Curl nights that were invitation-only, due to COVID restrictions. The league plans to resume in 2022.



Members of the SJFSC are all smiles after their performance at the Mayor's Children's Christmas Party with Santa.



Players support their teammates on the ice.



A player for the Greater St. Joseph Youth Hockey Association makes his way down the ice. Courtesy of Dans Action Photography

CIVIC ARENA

The St. Joseph Civic Arena opened in October of 1980 with first-week events including a Kansas City Kings Basketball Game and the Little River Band Concert. Concerts, sporting events, banquets, trade shows, conventions, dog shows, circus events, bull riding, and much more have been major attractions over the last 40-plus years. Although some events have come and gone, these types of events remain consistent and have brought and continue to bring enjoyment to countless patrons throughout the years.

The Civic Arena staff works closely with several organizations to ensure a wide variety of events are available to our community. Some of these outreach organizations include the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the newly re-formed Sports Commission, Missouri Western State University, as well as numerous non-profit organizations.

As the Civic Arena is a multi-use facility, we can see a fancy, decorated arena for a formal banquet one weekend, and the very next weekend it is transformed into a basketball arena for The Harlem Globetrotters. Or, we are hosting the Amped Up Bull Riding one week, and the very next week we are having a food trade show with St. Joseph Distributing. There are countless other scenarios where we move from one event to another which is challenging and exciting at the same time.

Although COVID-19 hit us hard beginning in March of 2020 and all of 2021, we are looking forward to 2022 where the majority of our historical events are optimistically looking forward to bringing their events back to the arena.



Safety Town



The Gun & Knife Show



A father and two sons get excited for the Harlem Globetrotters.

Facility Features

- Box office
- Flexible seating capabilities
- General assembly seating for up to 4,200
- As much as 19,000 square feet of unobstructed exhibit space or performing surface with seating for 2,300
- Superb acoustics and lighting
- A clear view of activities from all locations
- Concessions
- Modular walls within meeting rooms allowing for groups of 25 to 200

Challenges

- Constructed in 1980 with very little improvements since (this is currently being worked on)
- Drainage and plumbing system failures
- Aging seating system
- Aging lighting fixtures and switchboard panel
- Electrical problems in floor ports and throughout the facility
- Sidewalk and curbing degradation and damage
- Outdated and aging stage equipment
- Faulty floor ports
- Flooding in the lobby during heavy rains

Highlights

- COVID Clinics
- Mayor's Day of Prayer Breakfast
- Safety Town
- Heart of America Singles Square Dancing
- The Harlem Globetrotters
- Soles for Christ Shoe Distribution
- Special Olympics Ladies Night Out
- Darcee's School of Dance
- Mayor's Blood Drive
- Gun and Knife Show
- Small College Hall of Fame Classic
- Mayor's Thanksgiving Dinner
- Clarios Christmas Party

ARENA TOTALS

83	Event Days
38	Move-In/Set-Up Days
121	Total Days Used
24,423	Total Attendance
\$85,807.66	Total Revenue



Darcee's School of Dance & Acrobatics

FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Revenues across the board increased for this calendar year. As COVID still lingered in some sports, golf continued to grow at Fairview. Clubhouse operations resumed close to pre-COVID operations with banquet room rentals and golf. Each month, banquet and tournament events returned closer to 2019's event schedule.

Membership Stats

This is an increase of 42 new memberships from the previous calendar year! With increases in memberships comes increases in rounds played as well as cart, concessions, range, and Pro Shop revenue increases.

Full	199
Corporate	143
Discounted Mid-Season	19
<hr/>	
Total Memberships	361



Senior Club members battle it out during the 2021 Senior Club Championship

The new POS software allowed for better accountability in reporting and daily operations. Tee times are now taken throughout the year and employees have adapted to using the new system for the first full year of operation.

Hiring seasonal employees continues to be a challenge for both ends of the golf course areas even though minimum wage continues to rise each year. As this continues, some routine things have been modified. To accommodate for the diminishing hours worked by less staff, as well as COVID-19 continued concerns, the drinking water on the golf course was eliminated. The price of bottled water was decreased to help offset this removed amenity and allowed for fewer hours doing the water jugs daily.

Other areas that were modified, at times, due to the lack of employees included cleaning of the golf carts and daily picking of golf balls off the driving range. These jobs were done less each week of the season to accommodate staffing issues. Concessions were modified by having shorter hours each day, especially late in the season.

Due to equipment problems and lack of staff during the season, the rough was also allowed to grow taller in select areas. Some weeks, only green aprons and short rough were mowed to get by. With the addition of the new rough mower and upcoming equipment purchases in 2022, we hope this will no longer be an issue as long as we have adequate staff to operate these pieces.

We have found a good balance between tournaments scheduled, open play golf, and leagues. With more members, we want to keep our tournament schedule consistent but not overbook to allow our members plenty of playing time.

Wednesday Night Men's League was easier to handle this year as we had two pre-league meetings allowing league members to purchase their entire league and avoid standing in long lines. This was well received and will be done annually.

Membership due dates were permanently moved to February 15th of each calendar year beginning February 2021. This new due date allows for people to recoup after holidays and taxes. This change was also well received. They had previously been due January 1st of the calendar year.

The new golf course superintendent, Reggie Johnston, finished his first full season in his new position. The main challenges he faced this year were continued breakdowns from old equipment and water system. A new rough mower was purchased late season to replace the old gang mower that was 25+ years old. It has been a welcomed addition. With the passing of the parks' sales tax, more new equipment is expected in the future to replace much of the old existing equipment. Another challenge was finding an assistant to help in daily operations with our maintenance. Finally, in late July, a new employee was put on in the maintenance tech position.



Annual Rounds from 1.1.2021—12.31.2021

Annual rounds were up 26% overall from the previous year. Daily/tournament/league rounds all increased as more people came out to resume these events as the world moved forward through COVID. New members to the course accounted for more member rounds.

Daily	8,406
Member	14,160
<hr/>	
Total for Calendar Year	22,506

Revenue Line Item Specifics

- Banquet room rentals increased significantly from the previous year—up 65% (\$10,359)
- 118 rentals January through December 2021
- Tournament revenues increased—up 54% (\$19,511)
- 48 tournament events over the calendar year
- Cart revenues increased in fashionable numbers in relation to increased rounds across the board—24% increase (\$50,730)
- Concessions revenues increased—up 35% (\$53,835)
- Driving range revenue increased—up 35% (\$5,606)
- Golf Pro Shop revenue increased with more rounds and tourneys—up 10% (\$5,589) This would have been greater but stock was limited due to the shipment crisis overseas.



JOYCE RAYE PATTERSON 50+ ACTIVITY CENTER

Opened on October 16, 1978, the JRP is a 22,000 square foot facility in downtown St. Joseph. The center is supported by the Senior Citizen's Foundation, Inc. and provides space for recreational, social, and educational activities and opportunities for people 50 and older and persons with disabilities.

PARTICIPATION

10,296	Daily Activities
21,358	Fitness Center
4,543	Fitness Groups
617	Arts & Crafts
112	Retirement Groups
1,196	Dance Groups
3,985	Game Groups
2,149	Miscellaneous Groups
44,293	Total Participation
4	Volunteers
790	Volunteer Hours
72	User Groups & Organizations Met
7,437	Meals Served

The center is supported by the Senior Citizen's Foundation, Inc., and provides space for recreational, social, and educational activities and opportunities for people 50 and older and persons with disabilities.

With COVID-19 still spreading in the community, the JRP continued with increased sanitation efforts. Attendance fluctuated during times when spikes in the virus were being experienced in St. Joseph. Most restrictions for user groups and the requirement to wear masks gradually disappeared with activities returning to something that looked more like 2019.

Through the year, groups continued to return, new programming was added and two of the Saturday night dance groups came back. While attendance numbers for 2021 were still not close to 2019, they were better than 2020 for most activities. The three largest user groups in 2021 include fitness center/circuit room users, fitness class participants, and meals served in the cafeteria.

Amenities

- Fitness Center, Circuit Training Room, and Classes
- Cafeteria
- Billiards, 8-ball, snooker, table tennis, shuffleboard tables, and cornhole
- Library, DVD movies, and information referrals
- Large meeting rooms & room rentals
- Stage
- Elevator
- Free off-street and on-street parking
- Card, mahjong, and retirement groups
- JRP Kitchen Band
- Bingo games
- Line dance lessons and Saturday night dances
- Free wi-fi



Visitors and friends gathered at the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Challenges

- Decline in fitness center memberships
- 50 After 50 Program struggled
- Fitness classes tried and canceled
- Two large groups still have not returned and three user groups disbanded
- Increase to minimum wage for building attendants
- Cost for all maintenance contracts increased
- Fitness center maintenance provider went out of business; new provider is Push, Pedal, Pull
- HVAC failures and repairs; units were last replaced in 1997
- Elevator is over 40 years old
- Concrete under front entrance cracking and falling onto the parking lot
- Plumbing issues: Pipe, vault, and parking lot leak and continued plumbing issues in restrooms, backflow prevention system failed
- Roof leak over the fitness center
- Malfunctioning lower-level accessible door button and no accessible door button for 10th Street entrance
- Unexpected expense to upgrade security system radio and network due to cell phone companies upgrading from 3G and 4G to 5G
- Regular Thanksgiving Dinner was put on hold for another year
- Due to stage lighting issues, turned away a potential regular rental
- Kitchen band director passed away and Wednesday line dancing instructor retired; both positions were filled

Looking Forward To

- Adding programming: fitness classes, computer classes, smartphone classes, shuffleboard group, cornhole group, educational presentations, and continue working with partners for additional programming
- Improvements through Foundation donations
- Purchase additional fitness center equipment
- Painting fitness center
- Adding additional Saturday Night Dances

Highlights

- Increase in total visits: from 32,072 in 2020 to 44,293 in 2021
- Fitness Center Memberships: 592 regular members, 35 Silver Sneaker members, and 8 Renew Active Members
- Fitness Center visits increased from 17,878 to 21,358 from 2020 to 2021
- A dehumidifier and two ionization units were installed on the fitness center HVAC, remodeled a meeting room for use as a circuit training room, computer room remodeled and repurposed as a computer room and library
- Increase in total number of user groups and organizations using the facility for regular meetings and activities, from 69 in 2020 to 72 in 2021
- Blood pressure checks renewed
- Partnerships with Missouri University Extension from Andrew County and Arthritis Community Services brought in a high number of new users to the JRP
- Fitness Center Equipment Purchases: the city purchased two weight stack machines for legs and a recumbent bicycle, and the Foundation donated three treadmills
- Circuit Training Room Equipment Donation: MERIL donated 13 pieces of circuit training equipment providing for enhanced workout options
- New building signs and window clings installed for the name change
- In December, the JRP closed for a week for deep cleaning and to make minor repairs
- One of the past yoga instructors returned and a new one began offering two classes a week
- New fitness instructor came on board and is offering new fitness classes: beginning yoga and Pilates
- Mentored two interns from Missouri Western State University
- Analyzed cafeteria offerings and revenue and made changes to attempt to increase revenue
- Began accepting fitness center memberships through the Renew Active insurance program
- Hosted a health fair with 25 vendors and over 70 individuals attending
- Started accepting applications for scholarships to help low-income fitness center members pay for their 2022 memberships

MAINTENANCE

The park maintenance crews are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the functionality and beauty of the park system to increase the enjoyment of the city parks and facilities.

In addition to routine maintenance of our parks, facilities, and trails, as well as other park properties, the maintenance staff strives to save taxpayer dollars by completing numerous in-house projects. Our skilled and talented crew members have saved tens of thousands of dollars by replacing floors in the restrooms at the golf clubhouse, constructing a new shelter at Bartlett Park, installing a new driving range net at Fairview, using a boom mower to trim brush and trees along the park system that can not be by our conventional mowers, and built an ADA seating platform at the Missouri Theater.

During the summer, not only does the staff mow 1,500 acres but we strive to maintain a nine-day mowing cycle. They also plant trees and bushes in addition to maintaining flower beds. In 2021, our crew installed new fencing at College Hill and John Lucas Park and repaired older fencing. With the numerous wind and thunderstorms this year, our tree crew was very busy removing trees and debris, which is still ongoing. Our crews also deal with a large amount of vandalism and graffiti.

Other projects finished this year include the removal of the animal pens at Krug Park, dirt work and installation of rocks on Southwest Parkway to help prevent vehicles from driving off-road, installation of an ADA ramp and sidewalk at College Hill, and installation of multiple memorial benches throughout the park system. We welcomed back our work release program after a year hiatus due to the COVID-19, opened the new splash pad at Hyde Park, and helped with several festivals.



Scott Koch plants a burr oak sapling from the Mark Twain Liberty Tree during the Show Me Your Roots event at Hyde Park.

Last but not least, this was the 40th anniversary of Holiday Park located at Krug Park. Lights were also prepared and installed at Hyde Park's South Pole, Felix Street Square, and the corner of Lake and Alabama Streets. There is a lot of man-hours involved with the lighting, but our crews look forward to the holiday season every year.

MAINTAINS

1,500+	Acres
26	Miles of Parkway
46	Parks
7+	Facilities
18	Lighted Horseshoe Courts
23	Lighted Ball Fields
21	Lighted Tennis Courts
16	Lighted Basketball Courts
2	Municipal Swimming Pools
3	Skate Parks
20+	Miles of Hike-And-Bike Trails
80+	Restrooms
112	Picnic Tables
19	Concessions Stands
18	Picnic Shelters
16	Playgrounds
3	Ponds



MISSOURI THEATER

The Missouri Theater was designed by the Boller Brothers with sculptural work designed and created by Waylande Gregory, and it is a true architectural masterpiece. The theater opened in June 1927 as a 1,200-seat movie place. The first feature was “Rough House Rosie” which was a silent film and had a \$.25 admission fee. The City of St. Joseph purchased the theater in 1978 to transform it into a performing arts center. In 1979, the Missouri Theater was added to the National Register of Historic Places. St. Joseph is proud of the unique building and its beautiful sculptural work.

Although the theater was plagued by COVID-19 with numerous cancellations in 2020 and 2021, live theater and productions, as well as patrons, are eager to resume normal activities in 2022. The Missouri Theater staff works extremely well with all local arts organizations including the Allied Arts Council, Performing Arts Association, St. Joseph Symphony, Robidoux Resident Theatre, Creative Arts Productions, Dance Arts Center, Inspirations Dance, and others in bringing their art-form to the public. These include local artists as well as international events that are brought to this community to build on the quality of life for St. Joseph.

The Missouri Theater Complex houses several of the arts organizations as well the Pony Express Café and Moonlight Leather.

Renovations are a constant at the Missouri Theater which strives to maintain the structure and integrity of the facility as well as the opulence of the theater.



"School of rock" courtesy of NewPress Now



Catapult



The new roof being done over the office space.

Amenities

- Floor seating for 457
- Balcony seating for 717
- Orchestra pit
- Dressing rooms
- Greenroom
- T-coil installation
- Upgraded sound system

Challenges

- Faulty auditorium lights
- Electrical issues inside and around the marquee
- Seat upholstery in poor condition
- Sidewalks in disrepair
- Lack of storage space

Highlights

- New roof over part of the office space
- Purchase of new drape (waiting for delivery and installation)
- Dance Arts Center (numerous events)
- Inspirations Dance
- Legacy Dance
- St. Joseph Symphony Concerts
- Robidoux Resident Theatre Productions
- Performing Arts Association Performances
- Creative Arts Productions Performances

THEATER TOTALS

33

Events

98

Rehearsal Days

131

Total Days Used

16,300

Total Attendance

\$45,604

Total Revenue



"Accidental Family" premier



The St. Joseph Symphony



"Accidental Family" premier

REC CENTER

The Recreation, Exercise, and Community (REC) Center was constructed and opened in 2012, with the goal of providing a centralized facility for fitness, recreation, and community activities for citizens and visitors of St. Joseph. The facility features three gymnasiums, a full-service fitness center, and a 1/11th mile elevated walking track. There are several fitness class options, including Zumba and Tai Chi, adult fitness, and cardio. The REC hosts adult volleyball and pickleball, as well as youth volleyball and basketball leagues. A variety of special events and tournaments are also held throughout the year.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL

33	Co-Ed
36	Co-Ed Intermediate
13	Women's Intermediate
8	Women's Power
7	Men's Intermediate
97	Total Teams
3	Total Sessions

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

24	3rd/4th Grade
37	5th/6th Grade
61	Total Teams
2	Total Sessions



After a rough year in 2020, the REC Center began to bounce back in 2021! Almost all activities have resumed including all fitness classes, full use of the fitness room (no shut down of machines), youth and adult volleyball leagues, pickleball open gym, rentals (including a youth basketball league and basketball tournaments), and full use of the walking track. We are still holding off on doing birthday parties and basketball open gym, as well as allowing the use of our equipment for rentals. We are hoping to resume those activities in 2022.

COVID-19 continued to affect us in 2021, but on a smaller scale. The biggest effect was with staffing. The number of hours we are open along with the limited number of staff made it challenging at times to get everything covered. We still took precautions with the virus by doing continued touchpoint sanitization of all surfaces multiple times per day, sanitizing the entire fitness room multiple times per day with the electrostatic sprayer, and using the electrostatic sprayer to disinfect the bleachers between league games and rentals. We also still practiced social distancing when necessary, such as during meetings and when we had more than one person working at the front counter.

The most popular services we offered in 2021 were pickleball and our after-hours access cards. Pickleball continued to be a huge success with numbers constantly growing, so much so that we moved our start time to 7:30 AM from 9:00 AM on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. Most days, all six courts are in use at some point during the open gym. While the age range varies for pickleball, in the past, most players have typically been in the older crowd. However, in 2021, we have seen an increase in younger players. The after-hours access cards also continued to grow in popularity. We had to order another 100 cards due to the demand! We are thankful that we had very few incidents with the after-hours access, and it seems to be a really big selling point for new memberships.



The biggest challenge we faced in 2021 was the change in management. Jami Guck served as the manager since the REC Center opened in 2012, and when she left in October, we had a huge space to fill. Everyone stepped up and helped where they could, and thankfully, we managed to keep everything running smoothly in her absence. This challenge was a great learning experience for everyone. It has taught us the importance of cross-training our employees, so when someone leaves or if someone is out for an illness, we have multiple options for coverage. This will be something we continue to work on in 2022 with our new management team.

In July 2022, we look forward to celebrating our 10th anniversary! We will work on celebration ideas including some awesome promotional deals for new and existing customers. July should be really exciting at the REC Center, as it is also National Parks and Recreation Month!

MONTHLY AVERAGES

54	Class Participants
218	Non-Member Track Users

DAILY AVERAGES

41	Regular-Hours Member Visits
19	After-Hours Member Visits

EVENTS & RENTALS

7	Weekend Basketball Tournaments
1	1 Pickleball Tournament
1	South Side Women's Christmas
2	MO Family Sports K-6th Basketball Leagues



REMINGTON NATURE CENTER

Impact of COVID-19

While we have not returned to pre-COVID numbers, the Remington Nature Center attendance has steadily risen during the year. We didn't have the usual amount of school groups in the spring, primarily due to virtual and distance learning, but we did have summer school groups, summer day camps, and even a Grandma Camp. Scout groups are also starting to come back, either for simple tours or tours and programs.

As with attendance, conference room rentals are also not back to pre-COVID numbers but are rising. We have had a few rentals canceled by the renter due to COVID-19 exposure or positive test. The rentals involved a variety of events – birthday, graduation, and anniversary parties, as well as training sessions and meetings.

In 2020, the Remington Nature Center had approximately 20 school groups cancel their field trips due to COVID-19, which resulted in the loss of hundreds of students in attendance figures and thousands of dollars in admissions, programming fees, and gift shop sales. Beginning in April 2021, schools started to book reservations for field trips. While not up to pre-COVID numbers, attendance by organized groups of students increased in 2021 and we are taking reservations for 2022.

School & Scout group attendance are calculated in the regular youth admission. This section is being broken out and added to the year-end report to illustrate the number of students, and the schools that visit the nature center for field trips.

ATTENDANCE TOTALS

818	Children
3,232	Youth
3,537	Adults
1,570	Seniors
3,068	Conference Room
183	Miscellaneous
49	Members
12,473	*Total Attendance
\$9,048	Total Conference Room Fees
\$24,470	**Total Admissions



**Includes 181 people who attended for Smithsonian Magazine Free Museum Day. The 181 is inclusive of all attendance categories. Since no admission was charged, they are not included in the Total Admissions. Free Museum Day was canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19.*

***Total Admissions does not include conference room attendance.*

In 2021, we were able to provide 10 outreach programs at various locations for both children and adults, reaching 338 people. Part of the outreach programs was once again participating at Eagle Days at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge. We spoke with 136 individuals at the Remington Nature Center station

In 2021, the value total of free passes given away was \$70.00. The value total of giveaways was \$91.00. In 2020, no-charge conference room rentals totaled \$3,645.00. In 2021, the nature center had four new memberships, one new business membership, and four membership renewals.

In 2020, the Remington Nature Center was fortunate to receive a grant of \$5,000 from the Missouri Humanities Council as part of the CARES Act. In 2021, we were able to complete renovation of the former Children’s Area into the Live Reptile & Amphibian Room. This allowed us to consolidate all the live snakes into one area, as well as allow for the addition of two aquatic turtles. In December 2021, painting began on the Tall-Grass Prairie Mural in the exhibit space at the rear of the building. This area will illustrate how the land the Remington Nature Center occupies looked before European and American settlement.

During the summer of 2021, the nature center again took part in the Work/Life Skills program with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). During one, six-week session, we had three young men come in every morning and clean glass, vacuum carpets, set-up the conference room, pick up trash outside, assist with Fish Feeding Frenzy, and other projects. These young men also learned soft skills (communication, asking questions, handling various scenarios) through working with us as well as their supervisor who was on-site with them. We look forward to participating in the program in 2022.

GIFT SHOP & GIVEAWAYS

\$16,842.14 Gift Shop Sales

\$3,806 Giveaways and Free Passes

\$9,048 No Charge Conference Rooms

As in the other categories, gift shop sales are not back up to pre-Covid numbers, but have significantly increased from 2020, particularly at the peak of tourism season, as things began opening back up and people began traveling more.

FUNCTIONS & EVENTS

31 Tours

852 Tour Attendance

\$2,976 Total Tour Revenue



In 2021, volunteers have put in 339 hours at the nature center. During the Missouri Western Day of Service in September, 22 students spent three hours picking up trash on the center’s grounds, the parking lot, and the Riverwalk. Remington Nature Center welcomed Jessica Poush as an intern from Missouri Western State University. She has been learning how a nature center operates, developing and updating the Nature Center Scavenger Hunts, and assisting the naturalist with programming. Jessica will continue her internship into the spring semester.



RECREATION & SOFTBALL/BASEBALL

The recreation division of the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, and Civic Facilities Department offers a variety of recreational and sports opportunities to citizens and visitors of St. Joseph, as well as access to facilities for many private user groups. Programs and activities include the youth tennis camp for ages five through 10, collaboration with the Health Department on St. Joe FIT, the Outlaw Adventure Run, and adult cornhole leagues. This year saw a resurfacing of the outdoor pickleball courts at the Bode Sports Complex. We followed up this work by offering an adult fall pickleball league at the courts. We hope to continue to grow these programs, as well as offer other unique experiences in the community.



Youth tennis camp participants smile after a fun morning.

In late 2021, we partnered with GGLeagues, a premier esports organization that focuses on equality, fun, and safety, to offer our first esports program for the community. Open to ages eight and up, we offer various games on multiple platforms for a total of four seasonal leagues. We hope to expand this program in the future and meet the ever-increasing demand for unique activities to occupy the leisure time of the community.



Registration
OPEN NOW!

**St. Joe Parks & Rec Dept
Esport Rec Leagues**

Divisions Available:
YOUTH 8-12
TEEN 13-18
ADULT 18+



For more info & to register,
scan the QR code



A girl practices her swing at the youth tennis camp.

Support and guidance for various other community recreation events were also provided in 2021, such as providing green space for the annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Hyde Park by the Journey Baptist Church. The department also partners with other entities in St. Joseph such as the YMCA and Missouri Western State University by providing free or discounted usage of facilities for their programs. We are also in collaboration with the St. Joseph Disc Golf Club to maintain and promote the Bartlett Parkway Disc Golf Course. Promoting events on the course along with shared maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and equipment have fostered an effective partnership between the two groups.

Initial planning surrounding the developing River Bluff Trails Park along the Missouri River took place during 2021. Scheduling and utilization of the trails will be coordinated by the parks and recreation department. This exciting project shows great potential to increase tourism and utilization of the riverfront area with casual and organized events taking place on the trails. We hope to continue to seek out new activities and meet the recreational needs of the community as we move forward with our recreational programming.

PROGRAMMING TOTALS

72	Outlaw Adventure Run
12	Youth Tennis Camp
46	St. Joe FIT Weekly Average
23	Cornhole Teams
8	Pickleball Teams
32	Spring Adult Softball Teams
25	Fall Adult Softball Teams
17	Esports Participants

A new sense of optimism emerged in 2021, as softball and baseball started to get back to normal after the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Most league play ranging from youth baseball and softball to adult softball resumed without major interruption. High school spring sports returned in the spring and fall of 2021, to full capacity, with many games and several tournaments being held at city facilities.

Adult softball returned to regular programming with both a spring and a fall session being offered. 32 teams participated in the spring league and 25 in the fall league at the Bill McKinney Softball Complex at Heritage Park. The St. Joseph Baptist Association continued its longstanding partnership with the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, and Civic Facilities Department with their summer league composed of seven teams participating through USA Softball registration. The complex also hosted 10 tournaments coordinated through local high schools, non-profit groups, and

Missouri Western State University. Lafayette and Bishop LeBlond high schools both utilized Heritage Park for their fall high school softball seasons. Pony Express Baseball, Midland Empire Sports Association, Wood Bat Baseball, American Legion, and other local youth and adult teams used various baseball and softball fields for practice and league play as leagues returned to regular operation.



In 2021, major renovations, including new dug-outs and chain link fencing, were completed at the South Park girls' softball complex thanks to a partnership between the Midland Empire Softball Association and the City of St. Joseph. Lower Bartlett baseball field and the Bill McKinney Softball Complex received laser grading work to renovate infield surfaces. Similar work was completed at Hyde Complex with funding provided by Pony Express Baseball. The parks department was also able to purchase additional temporary fencing for usage at various tournaments due to a donation from the St. Joseph Softball Association. Annual fall turf maintenance, including top-dressing, seeding, and fertilization, took place at various baseball and softball facilities throughout the city.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & EVENTS

Community partnerships are essential for creating better experiences for not only the donors and the parks, but for our community and everyone who uses the facilities. Many of the projects funded by partnerships are projects that might not get attention from CIP funding. Because of that, the collaboration with those willing to give their funds to accomplish positive outcomes does create an optimistic impact within our community. Not all valuable partnerships come with monetary donations. Throughout history, community volunteers that give their time and talents have made substantial impacts on our system. In 2021, multiple families, businesses, and organizations put in countless hours volunteering. Notable projects completed include, but are not limited to, painting shelters, picnic tables, and railings; assisting with upkeep of the Rose Garden at Krug Park, cleaning debris and trash from parks and along the parkway, and planting trees. The Parks, Recreation & Civic Facilities Department values all partnerships, volunteers, and the effects they make on the City of St. Joseph.



Members of Rotary Club #32 help paint the gazebo at their adopted park, the Urban Outdoor Nature Walk.

The St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department sponsors many community events and activities for people of all ages.

St. Joe FIT, an annual campaign to promote health and walking of our many trails, was held virtually in 2021 due to continued fear of spreading the virus between participants. Each week, a section of the urban hike-and-bike trail was highlighted on the St. Joe FIT Facebook page. Participants were encouraged to walk that trail during its highlighted week for a chance to win the weekly prize donated by the City of St. Joseph Health Department. To “sign-in,” participants would scan a QR code sticker placed on the trail by parks

34 St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities

staff. 282 citizens registered from ages one to over 70 from 18 different towns around St. Joseph. There was an average of 46 walkers per week.

In July, the city-sponsored 4th of July fireworks went on as normal with viewing available at the Remington Nature Center and Heritage Park. July was also National Parks and Recreation Month; each facility within the department participated in their own ways during their highlighted week. Many promoted discounted prices and giveaways.



A boy smiles in front of the steam engine at Patee Park while participating in Parks Passport.

In addition to the special events held in 2021, multiple smaller activities were made available to the community. In February, Valentine's Day activity packs were created and made available which included creative and educational activities such as a birdseed ornament and a heart suncatcher. Multiple in-person scavengers hunts were also held including Corby the Leprechaun's Shamrock Hunt, Hazel the Bunny's Egg Hunt with over 100 participants, Find a Flag, and the Turkey Hunt with 73 participants.

In April, the St. Joseph Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department participated in the Show Me Your Roots event series hosted by the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association (MPRA) in honor of Missouri's Bicentennial. With MPRA's goal of planting over 200 native trees across the state of Missouri in the month of April, our department planted two oak trees at Hyde Park: one white oak and one burr oak from the Mark Twain Liberty Tree in Hannibal, Missouri. Community members were invited to participate in activities hosted by all the department facilities.

New in 2021, Parks Passport took off with great success. Children were encouraged to register online. Once registered, they received a list of playgrounds and "park challenges" to complete before the end of the summer with 27 locations total. If all playgrounds on the list were visited, the child received a free ice cream cone donated by Cabana. If all challenges were completed, the child was entered to win an end-of-summer prize pack. Over 430 children registered, but only about 35 children completed the passport. This is a number we hope to improve in 2022 with adjustments to the overall program.

Another event in honor of Missouri's Bicentennial was the Steam-to-STEAM Festival hosted by the St. Joseph Allies for Arts in August at Civic Center Park. The parks department created a shrunken version of the parkway system within Civic Center Park with a painted trail, 10 infographic boards about the history of parks along the parkway, and three respective activities that included bobbing for ducks at "Corby Pond," playing disc golf at "Bartlett Park," and cornhole at "Hyde Park."

The holiday light ceremonies were able to go back to normal in 2021. Cookies and cocoa were served at both ceremonies, but they were individually wrapped to help prevent the spread of the virus. Another holiday event that came back after being canceled in 2020 was the Mayor's Children's Christmas Party.

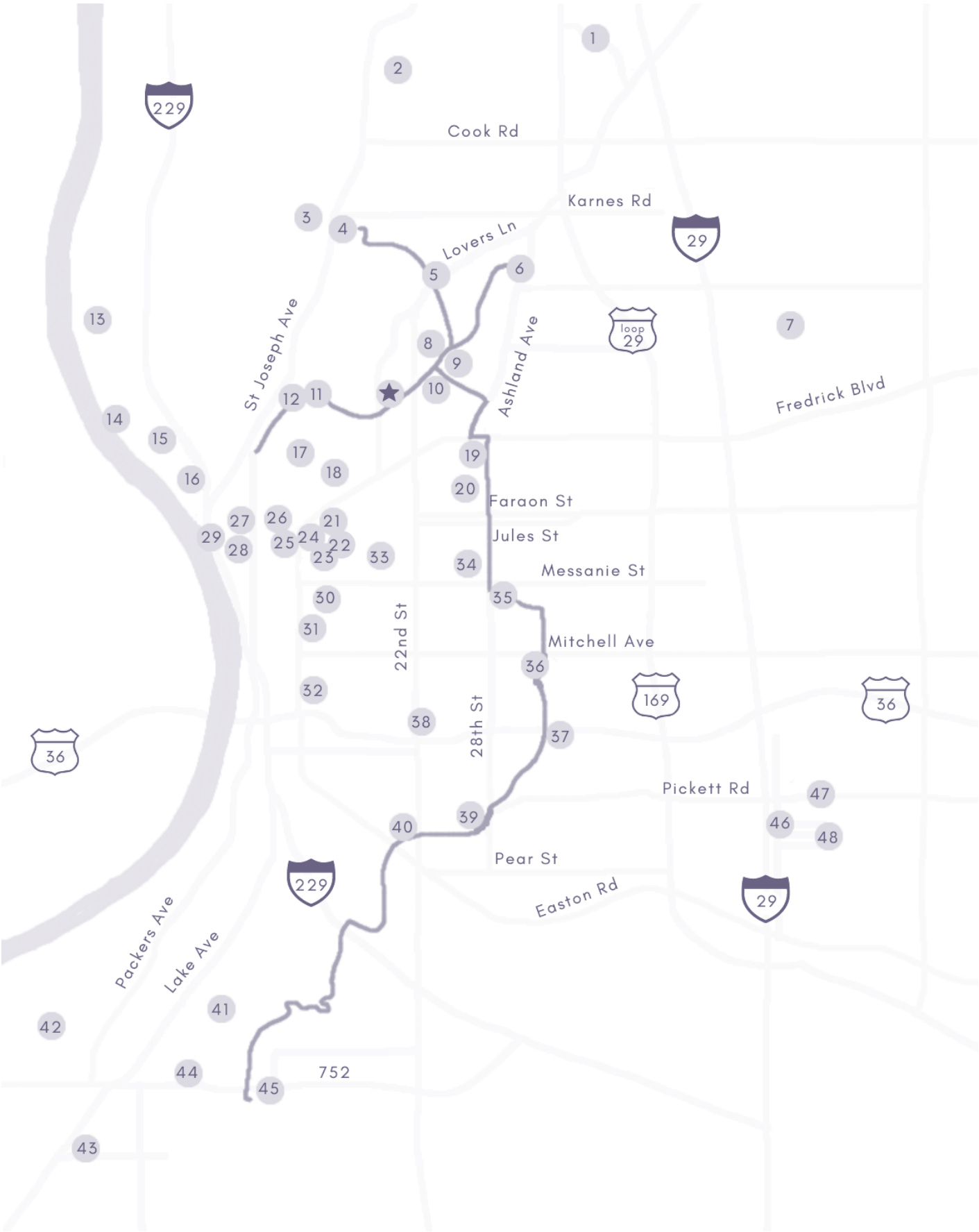


Letters from Santa was implemented for the second year. Children were encouraged to drop their letters to Santa in the Holiday Express mailbox at Santa's Station in Holiday Park. If a return address was included, "Santa's helpers" wrote a personalized letter back to the child. 60 letters were delivered from Santa, down about 20 from the previous year, but that could be due, in part, to the fact that Santa was in-person unlike 2020.

Along with the in-person events and activities, the parks department saw an increase of 700 followers on Facebook which increased our following to 4,400. Because of social media, many families were reached through contests and giveaways such as Parker's Holiday Countdown and Hot Dog Days of August.



PARKS & TRAILS



- 1. North East Park**
3519 North Village Drive
- 2. Westminster Park**
Blackwell Road & Savannah Avenue
- 3. Krug Park**
St. Joseph Avenue & Myrtle Avenue
- 4. Northside Complex | Krug Pool**
St. Joseph Avenue & Northwest Parkway
- 5. Eugene Field Marker**
Lovers Lane & Northwest Parkway
- 6. Lura M. Story Sifting Park**
2900 Ashland Avenue
- 7. Arrowhead Park**
Arrowhead Drive
- 8. Marion & Goff Ballfield | Corby Dog Park**
West Circle Drive & Marion Street
- 9. Corby Grove**
Northwest & Northeast Parkway
- 10. Corby Pond**
Northwest & Northeast Parkway
- 11. Lions Field**
North 11th Street & Grand Avenue
- 12. Maple Leaf Park**
1943 Maple Leaf Boulevard
- 13. Heritage Park**
2202 Waterworks Road
- 14. Remington Nature Center | River Bluffs Riverwalk**
1502 McArthur Drive
- 15. Huston Wyeth Park**
Poulin West Street & Powell Street
- 16. Fort Smith**
802 Prospect Road
- 17. Urban Outdoor Nature Walk**
North 10th Street & Powell Street
- 18. College Hill Park**
North 12th Street & Henry Street
- 19. Fairleigh Terrace Park**
2700 Fairleigh Terrace
- 20. France Park**
North 26th Street & Clay Street
- 21. Civic Center Park**
1100 Frederick Avenue
- 22. Smith Park**
Francis Street across from Civic Center Park
- 23. Joyce Raye Patterson 50+ Activity Center**
100 South 10th Street
- 24. Pony Express Monument**
North 10th Street & Francis Street
- 25. Missouri Theater**
717 Edmond Street
- 26. Felix Street Square | Coleman Hawkins Park**
North 7th Street & Felix Street
- 27. Civic Arena**
100 North 4th Street
- 28. Western Gateway Park**
South 3rd Street & Edmond Street
- 29. Robidoux Landing**
Main Street & Francis Street
- 30. William & Louis Park**
South 13th Street between Messanie & Olive Streets
- 31. Patee Park**
South 10th Street & Seneca Street
- 32. Mitchell Park**
South 10th Street & Duncan Street
- 33. John Lucas Recreation Complex | Horace Mann Building**
409 South 18th Street
- 34. Noyes Field Recreation Complex | Aquatic Park**
300 & 402 South Noyes Boulevard
- 35. Parkway A | Mary Park**
South 28th Street & Parkway A
- 36. Bartlett Park**
Southwest Parkway & Duncan Street
- 37. Fairview Municipal Golf Course**
3302 Pacific Street
- 38. Rest Square Park**
2222 Vories Street
- 39. Bode Ice Arena | Phil Welch Stadium | REC Center**
2500—2701 Southwest Parkway
- 40. South Park | Drake Field**
South 22nd Street & Commercial Street
- 41. King Hill Outlook | Native American Burial Site**
101 King Hill Drive
- 42. Outdoor Nature Center**
5402 Diagonal Avenue
- 43. Seitz Park**
6800 Esther Street
- 44. Gordon Park**
Alabama Street & Pryor Avenue
- 45. Hyde Park**
402 East Hyde Park Avenue
- 46. Leonard Road Acres**
4600 Cheyenne Road
- 47. Hochman Park**
5218 Pickett Road
- 48. Katherine Park**
5107 Grand Avenue
- ★ **Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Admin & Maintenance**
1920 Grand Avenue

2022 STAFF DIRECTORY

PARK ADMINISTRATION

816.271.5500

Chuck Kempf, Director

Jeff Atkins, Assistant Director

Jessica Oshel, Special Events & Communication Coordinator

Lori Frederick, Executive Administrative Assistant

PARK MAINTENANCE

816.271.5504

Brian Jackson, Superintendent of Parks

Scott Koch, Senior Work Leader

Rob Mattson, Senior Work Leader

Ray Steltenpohl, Senior Work Leader

Lee Clark, Trail Maintenance Supervisor

Chelsea Fee, Senior Account Clerk

AQUATICS

816.271.5519

Jende Smith, Aquatic Recreation Supervisor

Avery Cary-Wilmes, Aquatic Coordinator

BODE SPORTS COMPLEX & ICE ARENA

816.271.5506

April Wyatt, Bode Ice Arena/Concession Manager

Jannie Castanada, Assistant Complex Manager

Christine Feuerbacher, Program Concessions Coordinator

CIVIC ARENA & MISSOURI THEATER

816.271.4628
816.271.4717

Kathy Brock, Civic Facilities Manager

Chad Bumphrey, Arena Operations Supervisor

Carolyn Hitchings, Arena Coordinator

FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

816.271.5351

Penny Wingard, Golf Course Manager

Garrett Brown, Assistant Golf Course Manager

Reggie Johnston, Greens Superintendent

JOYCE RAYE PATTERSON 50+ ACTIVITY CENTER

816.271.4666

Julie Noel, Manager

Donna Clark, Senior Account Clerk

Jena Kieser, Fitness Center Coordinator

Sheldon Pearce, Building Maintenance Technician

REC CENTER & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

816.271.5512

816.271.5501

Megan Angst, Manager

Valerie Brandt, Assistant Manager

Kaleb Huffman, REC Activities Coordinator

David Cavin, Recreation Program & Facilities Supervisor

REMINGTON NATURE CENTER

816.271.5499

Sarah Elder, Manager

Lauren Koester, Administrative Technician

Shelly Cox, Naturalist

BILL MCKINNEY SOFTBALL COMPLEX AT HERITAGE PARK

Blake Bradley, Senior Work Leader Athletic Fields
